

extra compensation. The staff has also teamed up with local businesses to help acknowledge outstanding participation and achievement by students and parents.

Two years ago, Liberty teachers, parents, and students decided to refocus their efforts on reading. Now 80% of the students are reading at current grade level and above—a tremendous increase of 58%. Students at Liberty are now proud and successful readers thanks to the hard work of the Liberty staff and the support from their devoted parents and community.

What is noteworthy about Liberty is that the students became better readers because the community became more involved with its children. This Innovation in Education award is another example of how local communities really do know best. Local educators and parents work with our children every day and know what needs improvement. They deserve our support and should have more decision-making authority over how federal education dollars are to be spent. Educators from Washington state and from across the country need and deserve more flexibility and more control over their classrooms. Liberty Elementary and schools like it are the reasons why I will fight to return that power to our local schools where it belongs.●

MAY 1—GUILLAIN-BARRÉ SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, communities across America will observe Guillain-Barré Syndrome Awareness Day this Saturday, May 1. Guillain-Barré Syndrome, or GBS, is a paralyzing disorder that can strike any person, regardless of age, gender, or background. Victims often face months of hospital care and long-term disabilities can result.

For many years the GBS Foundation International has been renowned for its worldwide leadership in the battle against GBS, and I welcome this opportunity to commend the Foundation for all it has done. The Foundation, established in 1980, provides an effective support network for patients and their families. It also provides educational materials, funds medical research, and conducts symposia.

GBS Awareness Day is an important part of educating the public about this potentially catastrophic disease. In Massachusetts, for example, the chapter of the Foundation in Boston is coordinating an event for the entire New England area that will include a fund-raising walk around the New England Rehabilitation Hospital in Woburn, followed by a video presentation and seminars on the medical and psychological aspects of the disease.

One of the most disturbing developments in the battle against GBS is the recent scientific research linking this

disease to infection by a common food-borne pathogen known as *Campylobacter*, which is the most common bacterial cause of food-borne illness in the United States. These bacteria frequently contaminate raw chicken.

Unfortunately, *Campylobacter* is also one of a growing number of bacteria that are developing resistance to the antibiotic drugs commonly used to treat the diseases they cause, and these drug-resistant bacteria are now a major public health threat.

The health and safety of the American people is one of our top priorities in Congress. Microbial contamination of food is an increasing problem. The association of GBS with *Campylobacter* infection demonstrates that food-borne illness is a serious national challenge. We need to take more effective action against these threats to families and communities. An important priority of this Congress is to act on legislation that will enhance the nation's ability to deal with contaminated food and antimicrobial-resistant organisms.

We in Congress also need to do more to support research into all aspects of the prevention, treatment, and cure of GBS. I welcome GBS Awareness Day this year as an opportunity for all of us in Congress and across the country to become more actively involved in meeting this important public health challenge.●

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ASSOCIATION OF MAPPING SENIORS

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Association of Mapping Seniors (AMS) on the 25th Anniversary of their founding.

The AMS is a distinguished organization of former employees at mapping and imagery agencies like the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA). Their important work has been invaluable to both our national policy makers, and our national security.

Mr. President, the data produced by these dedicated Americans has been key to understanding our world and making it safer. Mapping and imagery not only help us support our men and women in uniform, but also help us develop our cultural understanding of ourselves in terms of population, growth, religious and economic clusters, and more. I want to commend each and every member of the AMS for their indispensable service to our country, our community, and our culture.

I am also proud to note that Maryland has been home to many devoted members of this important organization. As many of my colleagues know, I am a strong and unyielding supporter of federal employees, and these men and women are no exception. I want to thank them, Mr. President, for their outstanding service to our country,

and to honor them in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Association of Mapping Seniors.●

RECOGNITION OF FAMILIES FOR HOME EDUCATION

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Families for Home Education (FHE) in observance of Home Education Week, May 2-8, in my home State of Missouri. I join with the Missouri General Assembly in recognizing their commitment not only to excellence in education, but also to the promotion of public policy that strengthens the family.

Home educators make tremendous sacrifices to educate our nation's young people and they are making a difference. Countless studies show that parental involvement positively impacts the education of a child. Home-schooled children, in particular, benefit greatly from the individualized, one-on-one training they receive from dedicated parents and home educators. They are also afforded unique opportunities to participate in apprenticeships, and community and civic organizations. These activities serve to strengthen social skills and enrich their overall educational experience.

In today's challenging society, it is more important than ever that our young people receive a quality education if they are to succeed in the expanding global market. Home educators play a vital part in preparing children, tomorrow's workforce, to successfully compete and prosper in the adult world. I commend these dedicated parents and FHE, and wish them continued success in their endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO MARIANNE BOND WEBSTER

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the many accomplishments of Marianne Bond Webster, of Dunwoody, Georgia. By the age of 43, Marianne was a success by most yardsticks: happily married and the mother of two, tennis champion, gourmet cook, and a popular caterer. However, several events in Marianne's life sparked a midlife change which would cause her to re-examine her life and become more involved in our nation's political system. This realization spurred her to a more active role in WAND—the Women's Action for New Directions.

WAND is a national grassroots peace group emphasizing the role of women—activists, legislators and community leaders—on issues related to the federal budget, the military, violence, and nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. A nonprofit organization founded in the early 1980s, WAND has grown into a national organization headquartered in Boston, MA, with an advocacy office in Washington, DC, and